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ACCUSED OF BEING A SEX WORKER

CONDOMS IN TRAVELLER'S BAGGAGE RUBBED U.S. CUSTOMS THE WRONG WAY, A MONTREAL WOMAN CLAIMS

PAGE 3

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In this photo taken on Monday, a giant puddle is seen on McIntyre Street. As the snow in Regina melts, concerns about a severe spring runoff have been raised. But city officials say they are working to prevent flooding. ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO

City gearing up to battle high water

As the snow melts ...
High runoff expected, but new equipment and cool temperatures assist Regina crews

JEFF MACKEY
jeff.mackey@metronews.ca

Jay O'Connor METRO

City officials are beefing up their arsenal to try to prevent this spring's severe runoff from becoming an all-out flood.

"We are trying to downplay calling it a flood. Not to downplay the potentials, but if we do our jobs correctly and we keep these contained then it really is just a spring runoff event," Jay O'Connor, of emergency management with the City of Regina, said on Tuesday.

"If it spills outside of that and starts affecting houses, that is when we have a flood situation."

The city has its work cut out. Regina was hit with a record amount of snow this past winter, causing a messy, wet spring.

"The water height could be about two feet higher than it was in 2011," said O'Connor.

"We have been forecasted at 90 cubic metres per second down the creek system. That is about 24 cubic metres per second higher than it was in 2011."

This time around, he said, a "new arsenal" of gear including Hesco barriers and sandbags will help.

He added that some bridges are at risk.

"There will be efforts put in place to contain that water as much as possible," O'Connor said.

The weather has assisted the crews preparing for the water.

"This is kind of what we are looking for: Slightly warmer days where it still cools off at night," he explained. "There is always a bit of nervousness though, the longer it stays cooler. How quickly will it heat up at the end?"

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No charges yet

Name of third homicide victim of 2013 released

The identity of the victim in Regina's third homicide of 2013 was released on Tuesday.

Gregory Earl Fox, 42, of Regina, was found dead by paramedics in a house on the 400-block of Wascana Street last Friday at 5:50 a.m. The death was ruled a homicide by Regina police and the Office of the Chief Coroner.

An investigation is ongoing, and no charges have been laid. METRO

Police investigate at a home on Wascana Street last Friday after finding a man dead in Regina's third homicide of the year. ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO

July shows

Kiss ready to rock the Prairies over two nights

Legendary rockers Kiss will be bringing their live show to Saskatchewan this summer, and fans can't wait to rock 'n' roll all night.

Regina members of the Kiss Army can expect a show at Evraz Place on July 16.

Saskatoon fans will get their chance to see the band on July 14 at the Credit Union Centre.

Tickets for the shows go on sale Friday. METRO

Copper nabbed

RCMP probe theft at storage facility

RCMP in Maidstone are requesting the public's assistance in a recent theft. Sometime between last Thursday and Saturday, unknown suspects entered a storage facility for drilling rigs and proceeded to steal vast quantities of copper wire, electronics and tools.

RCMP believe this may have been a multi-day operation with the help of several suspects. If anyone knows of persons storing large quantities of copper RCMP urge you to report it. METRO

Job resource

Autism centre launches adult training program

The Autism Resource Centre opened its Adult Vocational and Training Centre Tuesday in alignment with World Autism Awareness Day, with Premier Brad Wall unveiling the centre's new logo.

The facility will help adults aged 19 to 35 with autism to better prepare and train for the job market. Anyone interested can call 306-569-0858 or visit autismresourcecentre.com. METRO

Sask. North Portal U.S. border crossing getting expansion

Set to finish in 2015. Upgrade to allow better flow of commercial traffic

ALYSSA MCDONALD
alyssa.mcdonald@metronews.ca

A heavily used Saskatchewan border crossing to the U.S. is getting federal funding for an expansion to its commercial access.

The North Portal crossing between the province and North Dakota will modernize its commercial side, adding space for on-site checks and widening a lane to allow more traffic to flow.

Tom Lukiwski, MP for Regina–Lumsden–Lake Centre, said the improvements will help move trucks faster, increasing the amount they can haul and decreasing emissions by waiting vehicles.

"It's all about getting the flow of goods and services across the border quicker and as secure as we've had it before.... There is just simply more traffic coming across the border today than there were years past," said Lukiwski, also referring to the Global Transportation Hub (GTH).

The border crossing saw $12 billion in trade in 2012 and the trade continues to grow with the province's economy.

"We expect the GTH will be a major source of economic stimulus for the entire province and particularly Regina of course, but also for the entire region of Western Canada," said Lukiwski, adding that North Portal is the ninth-largest crossing in Canada.

While the modernization is specifically on the commercial side, Lukiwski said the public crossing will also see some benefits.

"Any time we can get the trucks through quicker, public traffic will see a significant improvement as well," said Lukiwski.

The project is still in its early phases, but is set to finish in 2015.

A transport truck is seen in this Flickr image. MP Tom Lukiwski on Tuesday announced $10 million in funding to improve the North Portal border crossing. FLICKR/SADLERO

Residents poised to pay more for their natural gas

Doug Kelln, president and CEO of SaskEnergy ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO

Saskatchewan residents could soon dig deeper into their wallets to heat their homes.

SaskEnergy is applying to the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel (SRRP) for a two-year increase in its delivery service rate for natural gas, the provincial Crown corporation announced on Tuesday.

If the application is approved by the SRRP, a typical home customer would pay about $1.46 more per month in the first year of the hike, beginning Sept. 1, and 87 cents more starting exactly a year later.

Doug Kelln, SaskEnergy president and CEO, said the proposed increases are aimed at covering rising costs to ensure public safety and the "integrity" of the corporation's pipelines.

"We have 68,000 kilometres of them. Some of it is 55 years old. We need to pay attention to make sure they last well into the future, and operate in a safe and reliable way," Kelln explained.

"It's about reinvesting dollars to make sure the safety programming is there."

The average residential home bill increase would amount to a total of 2.1 per cent in the first year, and 1.2 per cent in the second year. However, actual bills would vary depending on usage.

SaskEnergy's last rate increase came in 2012, and added $2.25 to its basic monthly charge.

ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO

Robocalls. Tory worker charged in election fraud

A junior Conservative campaign worker in Guelph, Ont. has been charged under the Elections Act for fraudulent robocalls made during the 2011 election campaign.

The charge was confirmed by the lawyer for Michael Sona, a young employee on the campaign of candidate Marty Burke.

Elections Canada has been investigating hundreds of fraudulent calls in Guelph and dozens of other ridings that purported to be from the elections regulator.

Voters were told their polling stations had been moved, part of an alleged scam to suppress non-Conservative voters.

Sona, now 24, asserts that he is being made a scapegoat by the party brass. His lawyer, Norm Boxall, echoed that allegation in a statement Tuesday.

"If the government was interested in the public being fully informed ... a full public inquiry would be called, rather than a charge laid against a single individual who ... clearly lacked the resources and access to the data required."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Neither Elections Canada nor the public prosecutors' office would comment on the nature of a charge against one young staffer. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

N.Y.C. Lawmaker arrested over alleged plot to bribe his way into mayoral race

A New York state lawmaker was arrested Tuesday along with several other politicians for an alleged plot to get him into the race for mayor of New York City.

Democratic state Sen. Malcolm Smith tried to pay off some of New York City's Republican Party bosses to get himself on the ballot, federal authorities said.

"The complaint describes an unappetizing smorgasbord of graft and greed involving six officials who together built a corridor of corruption," U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said.

In a statement, Bharara said "Smith drew up the game plan" and another helped "by finding party chairmen who were wide open to receiving bribes."

In meetings with a co-operating witness and an undercover FBI agent, Smith agreed to bribe leaders of Republican county committees around N.Y.C. in an attempt to run as a Republican candidate, a criminal complaint said.

If convicted of conspiracy, wire fraud and violation of the Hobbs Act, Smith could face up to 45 years in prison.

Smith said in a statement that he'll be vindicated in court.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kamloops, B.C.

Alleged jail-sex voyeurs at hearing

A preliminary hearing is underway in a Kamloops, B.C., court for three RCMP officers and a jail guard who are accused of watching two women having sex in a cell.

Cpl. Kenneth Brown and constables Evan Elgee and Stephen Zaharia are each charged with one count of breach of trust by a public officer in connection with the August 2010 incident. Guard David Tompkins faces a similar allegation.

The Crown alleges the four did not act when surveillance cameras showed two drunken women having sex.

Instead of intervening, the men are accused of calling their colleagues to watch, even though the women were likely too drunk to be able to consent to sex, and one had already told officers she had HIV. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Student says she was accused of sex work

U.S. border. Customs flagged her for carrying condoms and lingerie, UBC student alleges

KATE WEBB
Metro in Vancouver

A UBC student who tried to go through U.S. customs three times last month while carrying condoms and sexy lingerie says she was interrogated for hours, accused of being a sex worker and warned she could be banned from the U.S. for five years.

Creative-writing student Clay Nikiforuk, 24, has asked that we use her pseudonym. She said she was told she now needs a visa proving she has no intention of settling in the U.S., in order to cross the border.

Her ordeal started in early March. Alone, she boarded a bus to Boston from Montreal, where she lives and is enrolled in distance education.

At the border crossing in Vermont, she said officers questioned her about the eight or so condoms in her suitcase and about her undergarments.

"I was like, 'Yeah, some girls like shoes, I like nice underwear,' and then realized it was really not funny," she said. "They were taking it very seriously ... and looking at my condoms and counting them."

Nikiforuk was eventually let through but didn't learn until later she had been flagged as a suspected prostitute.

On March 24, she was back in Montreal heading through U.S. customs on a flight to Aruba via Miami accompanied by a married man.

Clay Nikiforuk, who asked that her real name be withheld, says she was interrogated by U.S. border agents for eight hours last week and was denied a flight on suspicion of being a sex worker. CONTRIBUTED

Nikiforuk said the man's wife knows about their affair.

She said as soon as she gave her passport to U.S. border control she was asked, "How much is he paying you to go on this trip?"

When she said he was not, she was berated for participating in adultery but was let go.

When it was time to travel home from Aruba on March 27, she says U.S. customs interrogated her for eight hours. When asked what, if not sex work, she does for a living, she said she is writing a book about sexual assault.

"He asked, 'Are you looking to be sexually assaulted?'" she said. She alleges that after hours of interrogation, she was denied entry to the U.S., although her partner was not questioned. They spent $900 each on plane tickets to Canada via Panama, plus paid for two extra nights in a hotel.

She admits she has been paid for some freelance modelling work in the U.S. but insists she was questioned in all three instances in March primarily on suspicion of being a sex worker.

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol spokesman Mike Milne said he cannot comment due to privacy laws, but that in general anyone coming into the U.S. frequently is assumed to be an intended immigrant.

Legal checkup

Suspicion is enough

Miami-based immigration lawyer Steve Goldstein said he's never heard of someone being barred from entering the U.S. solely because they were carrying condoms.

And he said he suspects there were likely other factors at play when Clay Nikiforuk (not her real name) was denied entry to the U.S. after travelling to Aruba, such as her website stating she poses for nude modelling photo shoots and the fact she was travelling with a married man.

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol spokesman Mike Milne said suspicion of prostitution is enough to deny someone admission to the country under U.S. immigration law.

"If they have suspicion of something, and it's something that falls under the Immigration Act as a ground of inadmissibility, they pretty much are judge and jury," Goldstein said. "They make the decision: you're in or you're out."

Nikiforuk still contends she is the victim of a sexist double standard, because a man would never be investigated for carrying condoms and nice underwear.

KATE WEBB/METRO IN VANCOUVER

Dutch architects crowdfund a bridge

Modern development had cut off a thriving pre-war core of Rotterdam from the rest of the city, and officials said a connecting bridge would take 30 years to finance.

So a team of young architects decided to crowdfund it.

More than 1,300 planks later, each one stamped with the sponsor's name, the first 18 metres of the wooden Luchtsingel bridges two downtown halves of the Dutch city.

By summer, architect Kristian Koreman said, another 100 metres will stretch the bridge further into the old city core, adding a circular hub with a culinary park underneath.

Art from ZUS architects of the pedestrian bridge. HANDOUT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ZUS architects and the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam managed to raise $130,000 in the first four months of the project in 2012.

A plank costs $32.50 and a segment $162.50. The project, I Make Rotterdam, was underway when it won a popular vote competition for a government grant that kicked in another $4 million in infrastructure money that speeded construction.

"It's a new reality. We have retreating governments and an ongoing economic crisis. But people are no longer simply going to wait for things to happen," Koreman said.

"There is a soft revolution going on."

ZUS is keenly interested in other city core developments, including in Canada, Koreman said. He has joined in workshop discussions in Vancouver on alternative architecture and would happily do the same in Toronto, he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

North Korea keeps up tough talk, vows to restart nuclear reactor

More bellicose rhetoric. UN secretary-general says country 'on a collision course with the international community'

North Korea said Tuesday it will restart its shuttered plutonium reactor and increase production of nuclear weapons material, in what some see as its latest attempt to extract U.S. concessions by raising fears of war.

A spokesman for the North's General Department of Atomic Energy said scientists will quickly begin "readjusting and restarting" the facilities at its main Nyongbyon nuclear complex, including the plutonium reactor and a uranium enrichment plant. Both could produce fuel for nuclear weapons.

The announcement will boost concerns in Washington about North Korea's timetable for building a nuclear missile that can reach the U.S., although it is believed to be years away from that technology.

The nuclear vows and a rising tide of threats in recent weeks are seen as efforts by the North to force disarmament-for-aid talks with Washington and to increase domestic loyalty to young North Korean leader Kim Jong Un by portraying him as a powerful military commander. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Korean soldiers gather in the border city of Paju, north of Seoul, on Tuesday. North Korea vowed Tuesday to restart a nuclear reactor that can make one bomb's worth of plutonium a year, escalating tensions already raised by near daily warlike threats against the U.S. and South Korea. LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reactor history

Nyongbyon nuclear complex

The reactor began operations in 1986, but was shut down as part of international disarmament talks in 2007 that have since stalled.

In 2008, North Korea destroyed the complex's cooling tower in a show of commitment, but the deal later stalled after the North balked at allowing international fact-checking of its nuclear activities. North Korea pulled out of the talks in April 2009.

Experts estimate it could take from three months to a year to reactivate the reactor. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fallen from grace. Former priest pleads guilty to meth charges

A suspended U.S.-based Catholic priest accused of making more than $300,000 in methamphetamine sales while running a sex shop pleaded guilty Tuesday to a federal drug charge.

Kevin Wallin, 61, admitted to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, and was scheduled to be sentenced June 25.

The prosecution and defence agreed on a sentence of 11 to 14 years in prison.

Prosecutors said Wallin had meth mailed from California and sold the drugs out of his apartment last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suspicions

- Kevin Wallin was suspended from public ministry last May amid concerns by church officials about a number of problems, including sexually inappropriate behaviour with other men.
- Church leaders say they weren't aware of Wallin's involvement with drugs.

Gun debate

Schools should arm staff members, NRA report says

Schools across the U.S. should train staff members to carry weapons and should each have armed security officers to make students safer and allow a quicker response to an attack, the director of a National Rifle Association-sponsored study said Tuesday.

"The presence of an armed security personnel in a school adds a layer of security and diminishes the response time that is beneficial to the overall security," said former Republican Rep. Asa Hutchinson, who led the study. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ontario pair's al-Qaida links stun community

Xristos Katsiroubas, left, and Ali Medlej are pictured in a 2005-06 London South Collegiate Institute yearbook. The high school friends were part of an al-Qaida-led terrorist attack in Algeria. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO IN LONDON

Ali Medlej was a football player. "A big guy," as Darek Bishop puts it. "He was probably like six-foot-two, 250 pounds."

Xristos Katsiroubas was a "preppy kid" whose demeanor took a turn for the worse between his first and second years of high school.

"He started hanging out with shady people, and I saw him change," Bishop said. "He was talking different, his whole attitude changed."

It's been over five years since Bishop roamed the halls of a London, Ont., high school with Medlej and Katsiroubas.

Now he — and many others Londoners — are left wondering how two local boys could be part of an al-Qaida-led attack on an Algerian gas plant. "I smoked cigarettes two feet away from (Katsiroubas)," said Bishop, now 23. "I didn't expect any of this to happen."

There were more questions than answers Tuesday after reports that Medlej and Katsiroubas were the two Canadians found dead at the plant, where terrorists led a four-day siege at the facility in January during which 38 hostages and 29 militants were killed.

Leaders of the Muslim community quickly denounced the terrorists' actions and called for greater understanding.

Dr. Munir El Kassem, of the Islamic Centre of Southwest Ontario, and others said they didn't know Medlej or Katsiroubas, both of whom converted to Islam from other faiths while in their teens.

"Radical views" are not welcome at the London Muslim Mosque, El Kassem said, adding he doesn't believe radical teachings are happening elsewhere in the city.

"Everyone comes here to pray, and we have announced over and over our doors are open," El Kassem said. "We do not worship behind closed doors." ANGELA MULLINS/METRO IN LONDON

At a glance

- Media reports indicate CSIS was asking questions about Medlej and Katsiroubas in 2007.
- Two others from the London area might have travelled to Algeria with Medlej and Katsiroubas, according to reports, but it isn't known if they were involved in the attack.
- Intelligence officials have said dozens of Canadians have ventured abroad, or tried to do so, to take part in violent operations.

Telemarketing. CRTC fines firms for robocalls

Canada's telecommunications regulator has fined two companies over their telemarketing practices. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission says Ontario Consumer Credit Assistance and Quick Connect Solutions both failed to get the consent of people they robocalled to promote their services.

The regulator's rules bar companies from using auto-diallers without the permission of the people being called. The CRTC fined Ontario Consumer Credit Assistance $69,000 and Quick Connect Solutions $11,000.

"We appreciate that Ontario Consumer Credit Assistance and Quick Connect Solutions fully co-operated with our investigation and committed to changing their telemarketing practices," CRTC chief compliance officer Andrea Rosen said in a statement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Who's exempt

- The CRTC's rules for robocalls do not apply to police and fire departments, schools and hospitals that are communicating a public-service message.
- Nor are registered political parties, nomination and leadership contestants or candidates barred from making robocalls.

Social chatter. Facebook grousing never gets old

Has Facebook become less fun? That's something many users — especially those in their teens and early 20s — are asking themselves as they wade through endless posts, photos "liked" by people they barely know and spur-of-the moment friend requests. Has it all become too much of a chore?

"When I first got Facebook I literally thought it was the coolest thing to have. If you had a Facebook you kind of fit in better, because other people had one," says Rachel Fernandez, 18, who first signed on to the site four or five years ago. And now? "Facebook got kind of boring," she says.

Chatter about Facebook's demise never seems to die down, whether it's talk of "Facebook fatigue," or grousing about how the social network lost its cool once grandma joined. The Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project recently found 61 per cent of users had taken a hiatus from the site for reasons ranging from "too much gossip and drama" to "boredom." But so far, for every person who has left permanently, several new people have joined up. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Are fat fares fair?

Pay-as-you-weigh. Samoa Air will charge passengers for baggage — and personal bulk

Samoa Air has become the first airline in the world to charge passengers by weight.

Instead of a flat rate per seat, the airline will charge passengers a fixed price per kilogram, with the price varying depending on the route.

The pay-as-you-weigh system was announced on the airline's website. "We at Samoa Air are keeping airfares fair, by charging our passengers only for what they weigh. You are the master of your Air 'fair,' you decide how much (or little) your ticket will cost.

"No more exorbitant excess baggage fees, or being charged for baggage you may not carry. Your weight, plus your baggage items, is what you pay for. Simple."

The airline posted the news on its Facebook page, getting mixed reaction. Some liked the idea, while Gus Crichton was among those who rejected such a plan. "What? I have to give up my body building career so I can get a cheaper fare? Fat chance," he wrote.

Another dissenter, Guvanch Meredov, called it "immoral and discriminating." Another suggested this policy is like asking people with bigger feet to pay extra for bigger shoes.

The airline's chief executive, Chris Langton, told ABC radio he believes it is the fairest system for charging passengers. "Anyone who travels at times has felt they have been paying for half of the passenger next to them," he said.

Passenger poundage

"Anyone who travels at times has felt they have been paying for half of the passenger next to them."
Chris Langton, CEO of Samoa Air

"This is the fairest way of travelling. The people who have been most pleasantly surprised are families because we don't charge on the seat requirement even though a child is required to have a seat. We just weigh them." Langton said a family with two adults and two mid-sized children will now be able to travel at less cost than before.

The fee structure will include your personal weight and your baggage. "There are no extra fees in terms of excess baggage or anything — it is just a kilo is a kilo is a kilo."

Customers will be asked to post their estimated personal weight and weight of their baggage on a booking form on the airline's website.

The website says that passengers can prepay your "guesstimate" weight, "guaranteeing you that much weight is allocated to you for that flight. Take as many or as few bags as you wish — and avoid the exorbitant excess baggage fees." At the airport, passengers will be weighed along with their luggage. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pay-as-you-weigh airfares are unlikely to come to Canada because of human rights legislation and other legal issues. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Market Minute

DOLLAR 98.53¢ (+0.17¢)

TSX 12,682.10 (-13.04)

OIL $97.19 US (+12¢)

GOLD $1,575.90 US (-$25)

Natural gas: $3.96 US (-6¢)
Dow Jones: 14,662.01 (+89.16)

Economic crisis

Cypriot finance minister resigns

Cypriot Finance Minister Michalis Sarris has resigned following the launch of an investigation into how the country's economy nearly collapsed last month. President Nicos Anastasiades has accepted Sarris's resignation. The minister has faced strong criticism for his handling of negotiations with Cyprus's creditors.

Earlier Tuesday, Anastasiades appointed a panel of three former supreme court judges to investigate the country's plunge to the verge of bankruptcy. He said ordinary citizens shouldering the burden of "actions and omissions" by officials want to see those responsible punished.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Online privacy

Google policy faces legal action in 6 EU countries

Google's new privacy policy is under legal attack from regulators in its largest European markets, who want the firm to overhaul practices they say let it create a data goldmine at the expense of unwitting users.

Led by the French, organizations in Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Italy agreed on the joint action, with the ultimate possibility of imposing fines or restrictions on operations across the entire 27-country European Union.

Last year Google merged 60 separate privacy policies from around the world into one universal procedure.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Record unemployment

Eurozone jobless rate hits 12%

The eurozone economy has passed another bleak milestone. Official figures Tuesday showed that unemployment across the 17 European Union countries that use the euro has struck 12 per cent for the first time since the currency was launched in 1999. Eurostat, the EU's statistics office, said the rate in February was unchanged at the record high after January's figure was revised up to 12 per cent from 11.9 per cent.

Spain and Greece have mass unemployment and many other countries are seeing their numbers swell to uncomfortably high levels as austerity measures are enacted across the region. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IT'S ALL COMING UP WIKI

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

There's a game I like to play with myself.

No, not that game.

It's a game called, "If I time travel to today from the year I was born, what about the future would most blow my mind?"

Never mind when I was born. You just need to know it was long ago and far away.

There are lots of candidates: the microwave oven, the smartphone, the car that parks itself, drones, ebooks, the International Space Station, will.i.am, The Bachelorette.

But how about Wikipedia?

All the knowledge of the world at your fingertips. More than 22 million articles in 285 languages, 4.2 million in English alone.

Wikipedia has only been around since 2001, and already it's solved the stupid dinner-party argument. Now, instead of a long, boring argument, there's a moment of silence as everyone (let's be honest, just the guys) finds the answer on Wikipedia.

While it takes all the fun out of being a know-it-all — now anyone can be a know-it-all — it cuts down on relationship wear and tear.

"I can't believe you allowed that fathead Charles to bait you like that. Just let it go. Who cares what the national bird of Argentina is?"

"I care. It's the Rufous Hornero."

That was then. Now, in the future, the Rufous Hornero and other contentious beasts are at your fingertips, in a Wikipedia article called National Animals.

They don't call it wiki ("quick" in Hawaiian) pedia (for "encyclopedia") for nothing.

As you probably know, Wikipedia is written and edited by mostly anonymous people who do it for nothing. They are constantly working away on this global treasure, editing and updating the articles 24-7.

So far, there have been more than 600 million edits. Talk about a peer review. And April is contributors' month in Canada, when Wikipedia nerds organize workshops designed to make articles better. Sign me up for the Rufous Hornero session.

Of course, Wikipedia has its detractors. Despite its strict policy of neutrality, some people think they see biases. But those are the people who see biases everywhere (See Wikipedia: Noam Chomsky). Others are concerned that relying on reliable sources breeds orthodoxy.

Imagine what they'd say if Wikipedia switched to unreliable sources.

In one lifetime, we've gone from a world where only a few wealthy nations had access to the world's knowledge, and even that required access to a good reference library. Now, instead of a library, all you need is a smartphone. Instead of a librarian telling you to shush! you can ask Wikipedia. Yell if you like.

This year it's expected that smartphones account for 70 per cent of the mobile-device market in the U.S. (Wikipedia: Smartphone). I'm not sure what happens when all that knowledge gets around, as even a little learning is a dangerous thing.

There's another term for Wikipedia. It's called Pandora's Box.

Look it up. You know where.

ZOOM

A canyon of colours

Photography art that's a snap

This image looks as if it was taken in a fantastical canyon on some alien planet. In truth, it's an amazing picture of Arizona's Antelope Canyon taken by amateur photographer Gregory Boratyn.

The 42-year-old software engineer from San Diego has shown the popular geological wonder in a new light thanks to clever use of photo software.

"First, I decided to make them monochrome," said Boratyn.

"The place in the summertime is quite cold, so instead of black and white I decided to go with blue and black to emphasize the coldness of the rock and the place itself. The colours of red, orange and blue are called complementary and they made the image more pleasant to human eyes, which was my intention."

METRO WORLD NEWS

It lens itself

- Photography software used to enhance the canyon's textures: Nik Silver Efex Pro 2, Viveza 2, Adobe Photoshop CS6.

GREGORY BORATYN/REX FEATURES

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Ready to make the leap from fledgling sophisticated patron of the arts to bona fide sophisticated patron of the arts? Help yourself along with these entry-level primers on classical music and opera.

Opera Five

The Toronto-based collective's cheeky Opera Cheats series strips away the more intimidating aspects of opera to reveal the murder and adultery that's been entertaining us for centuries. (youtube.com/operafive)

CDZA

Classical musicians woo new fans with cool experiments such as a piece based entirely on classic ringtones or a pop medley that showcases key changes. Occasional cross-dressing and sax-playing dinosaurs keep things lively. (cdzamusic.com)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Did you know it takes a 22-km walk to burn off a Big Mac meal? What food would you walk 22 km for?

@MR_BF7: That does not include the GREASE!

@JessicaSquibb: tub of coconut oil. Weird?

@bexbz: Literally nothing

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

Comments

RE: Freezing Weather Wipes Out German Flea Circus, published March 31

A day early, folks a day early. **Myworkisdonehere posted to metronews.ca**

RE: Americans Furious Over Google's Easter 'Doodle', published March 31

Google is a business. They owe zero allegiance to ANY religion on ANY day of the year. (American here.) **Koreginald posted to metronews.ca**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: reginaletters@metronews.ca

metro

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Ceremony

Elton John and partner to be celebrated

Elton John and his longtime songwriting partner, Bernie Taupin, will be honoured at this year's Songwriters Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

John and Taupin, who teamed on most of the singer's best-known hits, will receive the Johnny Mercer Award during the June 13 ceremony in New York.

Elton John
GETTY IMAGES

Video

Leno and Fallon poke fun at Late Night rumours

Jay Leno and Jimmy Fallon poked fun at the late-night rumours swirling around them in a music video that aired between their back-to-back NBC shows Monday night.

In a spoof of the romantic ballad Tonight from West Side Story, Leno, who was backstage at the Tonight show on the West Coast, and Fallon, in his Late Night office in Manhattan, serenaded each other by cellphone.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jane Levy stars in the latest instalment of Evil Dead, which opens this weekend. HANDOUT

What could go wrong at a remote cabin? Lots

Horror films. Evil Dead returns this weekend, bringing a fresh take on the genre that has seen lots of clueless, pretty people killed over the years

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Are there any more frightening words in a horror movie synopsis than "five friends head to a remote cabin?"

That phrase has been the starting point for many scary scripts, conjuring up visions of ancient evil life forms, dangerous hillbilly types, mysterious incantations and lines like, "No matter what, we have to stay together."

The cabin-in-the-woods genre is decades old, but almost always follows the same formula: five good-looking teens, say, a jock, a stoner, some hot girls, one a brainiac, and a party girl go to a cabin, and only one or two make it home.

This weekend's Evil Dead shakes up the formula to an extent.

In it some handsome people head to an isolated cottage not to drink and party but to help Mia (Jane Levy) kick her addiction to drugs.

The details are different, but the outcome — and this isn't a spoiler, just a statement of fact — is the same and that's what we like about the genre.

The most well loved cabin in the woods movies must be the first two Sam Raimi Evil Dead films.

The original, and namesake of the series, was actually shot in a real life abandoned cottage.

In it five friends go to a cabin in the woods (sound familiar?), discover a Book of the Dead and unleash flesh-possessing demons.

It made a star of Bruce Campbell and led to a sequel, Evil Dead II, another cabin movie that is equal parts silly and scary.

Eli Roth made his directorial debut with Cabin Fever, a movie inspired by real life events.

The idea for a film about a group of friends in a (you guessed it!) cabin in the woods, tormented by a flesh-eating virus and homicidal townsfolk, came to him as he worked on a horse farm.

"I was cleaning hay out of this barn and got this infection on my face," he says.

The rash got so bad that, "I went to shave and I literally shaved a third of my face off."

It hurt, but he looked at the bright side.

"I thought, 'This is actually going make a great movie one day.'"

Sleepaway Camp — ignore the sequels, although the number two's title Unhappy Campers is pretty great — sets the action at a summer camp.

This gory slasher flick is most notable for a wild twist ending that has been called a "jaw-dropping, tape-rewinding, pause-and-stare-and-call-your-friends-over-to-stare" moment.

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Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lohan gets in on the April Fools' Day pranks

Lindsay Lohan made a very last-minute decision to continue her adventures in Brazil this week, making her way to the São Paulo airport for a flight back to New York only to opt out of getting on the plane, according to E! News.

While her manager took the flight as planned, Lohan reportedly checked herself into the Emiliano Hotel alone with a female friend.

"She's staying on her own dime," a source says. "She is staying against everyone's advice."

Lohan's promotional trip to Brazil for a denim company was to be followed by a quick trip to NYC before heading to L.A. for the Coachella Music Festival and then 90 days of court-ordered rehab.

The extended vacation also gave Lohan a chance to get in on the fun of pulling an April Fools' prank on her Twitter followers, posting, "It's official. Pregnant..." and drawing a flood of shocked reactions.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

What's lower than scamming kids with cancer?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Oh man. This is not good. I mean, in the spectrum of "not good things," this ranks pretty much at the top: Lamar Odom and wife Khloe Kardashian's charity for kids with cancer looks like a scam.

That's right, they are fleecing kids with cancer.

The only thing worse than scamming kids with cancer? Scamming kids with AIDS. That's it. There's nothing worse. (OK, maybe scamming orphans with AIDS and/or cancer, but that's really it.)

A new report by ESPN (and this marks the first time ESPN has been mentioned in this column) says that Odom's charity, Cathy's Kids, which started in 2004 in honour of Odom's mother who died from stomach cancer, has raised $2.2 million, but not one cent has gone to cancer-related causes.

Instead, it seems like the money has gone to two things: the charity's executive, Jerry DeGregorio, who happened to be the best man in Kardashian's and Odom's wedding, and two elite youth basketball travel teams. It's important to note that none of the kids in the "elite basketball team" seem to be battling cancer in between games.

When approached by ESPN, Odom brushed off the allegations with, "It's my money."

Actually, if you raise $2.2 million by having people donate their cash to help children with cancer, it's not your money. I swear. Do I have to go to Hollywood myself to teach these people how to act?

Justin Bieber

Justin Bieber's pals living it up at his place

It turns out Justin Bieber doesn't even have to be home to show his friends a good time. According to E! News, about four male pals have been crashing at Bieber's L.A. area home and throwing some pretty raucous parties in his absence, and the neighbours are taking notice.

"They probably complain because when people come up, there are like 20 cars. That was a crazy party," a source says.

The house guests living it up while Bieber continues his tour include rappers Lil Twist and King Kevi.

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Tourists enjoy the rays on the Maho beach near Princess Juliana International Airport. ISTOCK

St. Maarten — the place to sip, shop and sun yourself

Island time. Pristine beaches, frosty rum drinks and plenty of shopping make this the place of cubicle dreams

ALISON BOWEN
life@metronews.ca

Philipsburg is a must-visit site for shopaholics. ISTOCK

St. Maarten, a 60-square-kilometre island, boasts beach after beach, most framed by mountains. And these many waterfronts are put to good use with bars plopped on the water and multiple marinas. St. Maarten fulfils cubicle fantasies: crisp white sailboats against azure waters, fresh and flavourful seafood and imaginative rum drinks. But the island, which is half Dutch and half French, also has a bonanza of different cultures, shown by more than 360 restaurants in surprising variety. So whether you're stopping over before sailing on to nearby St. Barths or St. Kitts or staying for a while, here's where to shop, sip and sun.

For filling your suitcase

Philipsburg, the capital on the Dutch side, is a must-visit for the island's legendary duty-free shopping. Stroll along the winding narrow roads and pop into the numerous jewelry and watch stores. Also a must-see? The Guavaberry Emporium, built in an old cedar house, where you can sample not only the berry liqueur but also a guava colada. The fruit has a mild, unusual sweetness. This shop is also a great place to pick up gifts, like rum bottles with colourful hand-painted sunsets and parrots.

For Caribbean blue skies and seas

Sailing aficionados should schedule their visit during the annual Heineken Regatta, where sailboats race around the island, creating picture-perfect views of colourful, billowing sails dotting royal-blue water. The event promises "serious fun" with parties every night, visitors and locals dancing the night away in flip flops on the sand. Even if you can't sail, make sure to get out on the water — the ocean is so clear, if you jump in, you can see your toes. Even that doesn't impress locals — clear to them means seeing the bottom.

Where to stay

The Sonesta Maho Beach Resort and Casino, undergoing a $3 million renovation, is ideal for travellers who want a sea breeze and tropical drink 10 minutes after landing. The hotel is within walking distance to multiple restaurants, although it is all-inclusive, covering all your meals and rum punches.

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Avion travel reward bookings are powered by Travelocity, which "truly puts clients in the pilot's seat with access to Travelocity's sales and special programs for flights, hotels, car rentals and vacation packages," says Andrea Metrick, director of retail cards for RBC. "It's a one-stop shop for research, planning and booking travel, including trip protection and travel insurance.

"The real key to Avion is the choice that's available through the RBC Rewards program," Metrick says. "Our value is in the breadth and depth of the program, allowing our members the choice of rewards that suit a wide range of tastes and lifestyles."

What else makes RBC's Avion program so appealing? For 97 per cent of Canadians, "not having my points expire" is the most important feature to have in a rewards program. Keep collecting your points until you are ready to redeem them for merchandise, gift cards — or to head off on your next big vacation.

Apply for your Avion card online or in any RBC branch — you don't have to be an existing RBC client to apply.

Rich flavours from roasted acorn squash team up with maple syrup

Ingredients

- 2 acorn squash, halved and seeded
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) maple syrup
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 large carrot, peeled and chopped
- 1 small Granny Smith apple, peeled and chopped
- 1 l (4 cups) chicken broth, plus 250 ml (1 cup) for thinning
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground thyme
- Pinch of nutmeg
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) fresh lemon juice
- Diced apple and fresh chives for garnish

Roasted Acorn Squash Soup

This recipe serves four. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

1. Preheat oven to 200 C (400 F).

2. Brush cut side of squash with maple syrup and place cut side down on a baking sheet lightly coated with 15 ml (1 tbsp) of the olive oil. Bake 45 minutes or until tender. Allow to cool, then scrape out the squash flesh and set aside.

3. In a 4-litre (4-quart) saucepan, heat remaining 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic, onion, carrot and apple. Cook for 5 minutes, then reduce heat to low and cover. Simmer, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes or until vegetables are soft.

4. Add the cooked squash, 1 litre (4 cups) broth, thyme, and nutmeg. Simmer for 20 minutes. Allow to cool.

5. Once the mixture has cooled, blend (in two batches) in food processor or blender until smooth. Reheat soup and season to taste with salt and freshly ground pepper. Stir in fresh lemon juice and add more broth if soup is too thick. Garnish with apple and chives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FEDERATION OF QUEBEC MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS

Drink of the Week

Smithsonian

Indulge your senses with this contemporary blend of smooth flavours of almond syrup, lemon juice, lavender bitters and more.

- 1.5 oz Belvedere Vodka
- 3/4 oz almond syrup (Orgeat)
- 1/2 oz fresh lemon juice
- 3 dashes lavender bitters
- 1/4 oz egg white
- Soda top

Dry shake ingredients then shake with ice and fine strain into a highball glass. Top with soda. Garnish with a lavender stalk.

RECIPE AND IMAGE COURTESY OF BELVEDERE VODKA

Traditional Italian dessert gets unique Canadian twist

Tiramisu becomes Maple Tiramisu in this Canadian version of the Italian favourite.

1. In a bowl, mix together the espresso and 125 ml (1/2 cup) of the maple syrup, then add the liqueur and dried fruit. Set aside.

2. In bowl, beat the egg whites until stiff peaks form.

3. In another large bowl, beat the mascarpone, egg yolks, vanilla and remaining maple syrup. Then, carefully fold into the egg whites using a spatula.

4. Place 6 cookies in the bottom of a 3-l (12-cup) glass dish, then pour half of the dried fruit and coffee mixture evenly over the top. Sprinkle half of the nuts and spread half the mascarpone filling on top. Repeat to create a second layer.

5. Refrigerate for at least 6 hours, then sprinkle with cocoa and maple sugar before serving.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FEDERATION OF QUEBEC MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS

This recipe serves 12. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Ingredients

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) hot espresso coffee
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) maple syrup
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) liqueur (such as Triple Sec or Amaretto)
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) raisins
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) dried cranberries
- 6 eggs, separated
- 2 475-g tubs of mascarpone cheese, at room temperature
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) vanilla extract
- 12 ladyfinger cookies, broken in half
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) walnuts, grilled and chopped (optional)
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) cocoa powder
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) maple sugar (or maple flakes)

Dinner. Maple Salmon Fillet with Chives

1. Preheat barbecue or grill on medium heat.

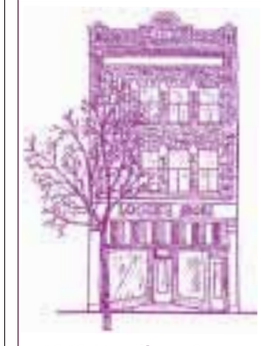
2. Cut salmon fillet into 4 equal parts.

3. In a bowl, combine chives, garlic, olive oil, maple syrup, soy sauce and lemon juice. Season well with salt and pepper. Baste salmon with marinade and refrigerate for 15 minutes, then grill for 4 minutes on each side (or until desired doneness).

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FEDERATION OF QUEBEC MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS

Ingredients

- 1 680-g (1 1/2 -lb) salmon fillet
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chives
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) olive oil
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) maple syrup
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) soy sauce
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Salt and pepper, to taste



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Not all interviews created equal

So what's your type? Whether it's in-person, in a group or on the phone, you'll know how to impress with these insider tips

SHAHEERAH KAYANI
TalentEgg.ca

So you've done the hard work of sending in your application for that dream internship, perfecting your resumé, creating that awesome cover letter, sending in your transcript. And you've been chosen for an interview. Yay!

Now comes the time to prepare and brush up on your interview skills.

One of the things you need to consider is what type of interview is it? Read below for the three main types of interviews to see what employers are looking for in each type and what you can do to ace the interview.

One-on-one interview

This is the most common type.

What the employer is seeking

It involves you and the interviewer having a one-on-one chat about why you've applied for the position, discussing your qualifications and past experiences and assessing your skills to see if you are a good fit for the employer.

What you should do

- Always bring a copy of your resumé with you to the interview and know what is on your resumé inside and out.
- When the interviewer asks you questions, you will need to refer to specific examples from your resumé and highlight what skills and strengths you developed from those experiences, as well as both the positive and negative aspects of your previous employment and how you dealt with them.

Standing out in a group interview setting is a matter of knowing what to say and when to speak up. ISTOCK

- You will also use your past experiences to talk about a weakness you may have, but make sure to emphasize how you are working to improve on those weaknesses.

Group Interview

This involves you and a few other job seekers who have applied for the same position or department as you. The employer will interview all of you simultaneously to see if you would work well in a team environment with your co-workers.

What the employer is seeking

- In this type of interview, the employer wants to assess your ability to work as part of a team by seeing you in action.
- The employer will judge you based on how you well you interact with the other applicants and your contributions to the interview discussion.

What you should do:

- Greet the other applicants and introduce yourself.
- Don't interrupt other applicants when they're talking but feel free to contribute to others' answers.
- Know what your own personal strength is when working in a team, and showcase that role well.

Telephone Interview

Based on your availability and time or location constraints, the employer may decide to interview you on the phone.

What the employer is seeking

- The employer will want to hear a clear, vibrant voice.
- He/she will be testing your ability to think on the spot and articulate your answers.

What you should do

- Firstly, schedule a phone call for a time when you know you for sure that you will be available.
- Again, have your resumé in front of you so that you can be ready to answer questions.
- Don't rush your answers, but instead take the time to form clear responses.
- Keep a calendar/agenda handy, so that you can take down important notes.

Study up!

Regardless of what type of interview it is, the key to acing it is practise, practise, practise!

- Consider checking in with your school's career service department to see if they offer mock interview, resumé critiques, and other interview help.

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LEAH RUEHLICKE
TalentEgg.ca

Your resumé was flawless. Your cover letter impressed. You aced the interview. Now there's nothing left to do but wait. Right?

Wrong.

According to an Accountemps survey, 66 per cent of HR managers say it's beneficial to one's job search to send a thank you note after the job interview.

Raffi Toughlouian, division director of Accountemps, says a thank you note is "a good vehicle for you to reiterate your interest in a potential position, as well as reference back to specific points in the conversation that were of interest to both you and the interviewer."

Thus, a quick "thanks" not only allows you to showcase your manners, but once again gives you the chance to try and nab a position.

When writing your thank you note, use an enthusiastic tone and keep all the content positive. ISTOCK

How to write a good thank you note

Toughlouian offers the following advice for students and recent grads who are whipping up a note of gratitude:

- Keep it brief and concise
- Provide a brief recap of the skills you can bring to the job
- Be specific by highlighting key conversation points that stood out to you
- Time is of the essence: thank you notes should be sent out within 24 hours of the interview

Should you send a thank you note by email or snail mail?

"I still think there's a bit of charm to a handwritten note," Toughlouian says, "but in this day and age email just makes the most sense."

Sometimes in an interview there will be a business card exchange, which is a good indicator that email is an acceptable form of communication.

In fact, more than two thirds of HR managers say they prefer email, while 48 per cent say they'd still appreciate a handwritten note.

"[Email] is also the least intrusive method of communication," Toughlouian adds. Not only that, but it ensures the message will actually get to the recipient.

For job interview situations that have multiple interviewers, direct your thank you note to the person who you had the most contact with or who booked the meeting.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

NHL

Slumping Stars clearly rebuilding

The Dallas Stars on Tuesday traded 41-year-old Jaromir Jagr to Boston and sent surging centre Derek Roy to Vancouver.

The moves came a day after a 4-0 loss to Anaheim, a team the Stars play twice more this week. Dallas is 12th in the Western Conference with 13 games left, and on track to miss the playoffs for the fifth year in a row. Dallas got two young prospects and a conditional second-round pick from Boston, and a 23-year-old defenceman and a second-round pick from Vancouver.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Rangers reel in Clowe from the Sharks

The New York Rangers have acquired forward Ryane Clowe from the San Jose Sharks for three draft picks.

The teams announced the deal Tuesday night. The Sharks get the Rangers' second-round pick and a third-round pick in the 2013 draft, and a conditional second-round pick in the 2014 draft.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ryane Clowe GETTY IMAGES

MLB

Orioles pick up where they left off versus Rays

Baltimore played like a confident bunch that's left 2012 behind and is intent on proving a surprising breakthrough season wasn't a fluke.

Adam Jones keyed a seventh-inning rally with a go-ahead double and Chris Davis followed with a three-run homer Tuesday to help the Orioles launch their quest to return to the playoffs with a 7-4 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

James Reimer has a 13-4-4 record this season, but talk persists that the Leafs must shore up their goaltending with an experienced puck-stopper as the club appears poised to end a nine-year playoff drought. KATHY KMONICEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reimer thankful for deadline break

NHL. With trade rumours swirling, Leafs backstop content to be on hiatus until Thursday

Goaltender James Reimer is very thankful the Toronto Maple Leafs don't play again until after the NHL trade deadline.

Clubs have until 3 p.m. on Wednesday to make deals and reshape their rosters. Of course, it's an unsettling time for NHL players, including Toronto goaltenders Reimer and Ben Scrivens with the Leafs looking at possibly adding Calgary veteran Miikka Kiprusoff for their stretch run.

Fortunately for Reimer, Toronto is in the midst of a four-day break and doesn't play again until Thursday against the Philadelphia Flyers.

"I think it's a huge distraction," Reimer said Tuesday.

"If you have the opportunity to not be playing I think that's probably almost a benefit."

Reimer, 25, and Scrivens, 26, have both been solid in helping stake Toronto (20-12-4) into a tie with Ottawa (19-10-6) for fifth in the Eastern Conference standings before Tuesday night's games.

Quoted

"It's a fun position to be in because it shows people genuinely care about the team."

Leafs backup goalie Ben Scrivens on dealing with trade rumours

The six-foot-two, 208-pound Reimer has a 13-4-4 record, 2.52 goals-against average, .920 save percentage and two shutouts in 22 appearances this season. Scrivens is 7-8-0 in 18 games boasting a 2.59 GAA and .918 save percentage with two shutouts.

But neither Reimer nor Scrivens has any NHL playoff experience. So the Leafs have reportedly received permission from the Calgary Flames to speak with Kiprusoff's representatives.

The 36-year-old boasts a career 2.48 GAA and .913 save percentage. He still has a year remaining on a deal that reportedly doesn't include a no-trade clause, but talk is Kiprusoff has made it clear if he's dealt he won't report to his new team.

"All you can control is how you play. I know it's a huge cliché, obviously, but it's the truth," Reimer said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB. Carter says 2013 Blue Jays just have to 'relax'

Jays great Joe Carter jokes with team president Paul Beeston on Tuesday before Toronto's season opener against Cleveland. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Former Toronto Blue Jays outfielder Joe Carter knows a thing or two about high expectations.

Big things were expected the year after Toronto's first World Series title in 1992. The Blue Jays rose to the occasion again in 1993, with Carter anchoring the team and sealing the series victory with a walk-off homer in Game 6.

The buzz is back in the Ontario capital this year after a busy off-season marked by some stunning trades and spending.

Carter's advice for the 2013 edition of the team? Don't get caught up in the hype.

"When you have new guys come in — as many as the Jays have coming in now — the tendency is to go out there and try to do too much, too early," Carter told The Canadian Press.

"And then when you do that, you put yourself in a hole. What they've got to do is just go out there and try to relax as much as possible and trust their teammates and believe in their teammates and not try to do it themselves."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

Canada's Wiggins philosophical on hoops attention

Basketball. Projected No. 1 pick in 2014 NBA draft looks to parents in coping with spotlight

Andrew Wiggins sat patiently for the better part of an hour Tuesday, answering every question thrown at him.

The quiet basketball phenom from Vaughan, Ont., is getting a crash course on life in the spotlight at this week's McDonald's All-American Game in Chicago. And love it or loathe it, he's developed a philosophical view on it.

"A lot of people don't get the opportunity to do this, so I think I'm blessed that I'm getting all the attention," Wiggins said.

The 18-year-old is the headliner for Wednesday's game as the top prospect from the 2013 class, and was in high demand on the always-chaotic media day.

Reporters approached in waves, asking: When will you announce your college decision? How are you handling the pressure? Oh, and about that college decision...?

The six-foot-seven Wiggins, who boasts a 6-11 wingspan and a smile almost as wide, said he's become used to — if not entirely sold on — the attention. His parents, he said, have been great resources — his dad Mitchell played in the NBA, while his mom Marita Payne-Wiggins is a two-time Olympic track medallist.

"They were professional athletes, they've been here before, they're experienced, they're wise in every aspect of being an athlete," he said. "Whenever I need someone to lean on, they're always there for me."

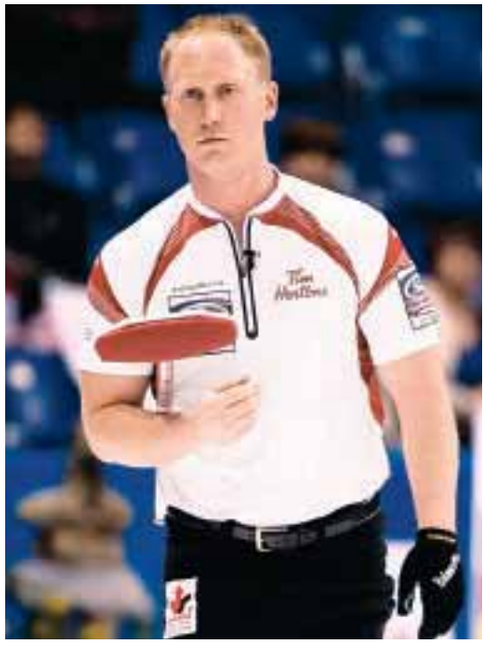
The small forward, who averaged 23.4 points, 11.2 rebounds and 2.6 blocks for Hunting Prep this past season, could become the first Canadian to win MVP honours at Wednesday's All-American game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Just take it one day at a time. Just keep playing hard, practising hard."

Canadian high school basketball phenom Andrew Wiggins, on advice he's received from NBA superstars LeBron James and Kevin Durant



Canada loses 1st at worlds

Canada is no longer perfect at the world men's curling championships. Jiri Snitil of the Czech Republic beat Brad Jacobs 6-4 in the morning draw, handing Canada its first loss after five straight wins. Jacobs' rink from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., was the last unbeaten team in Victoria.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

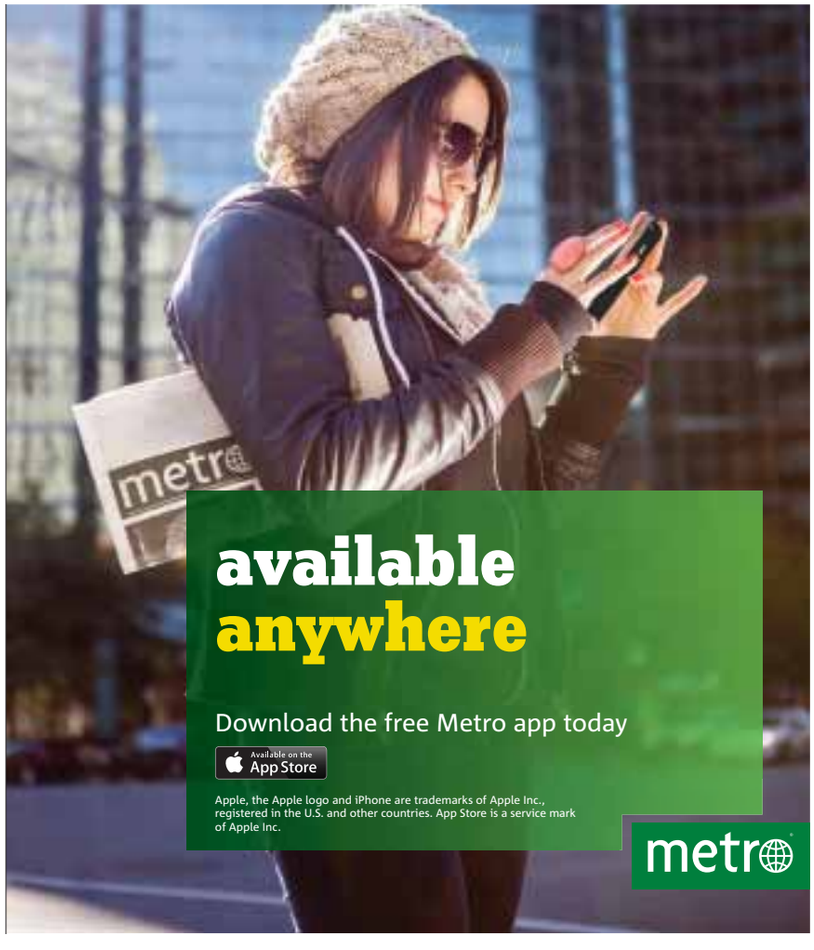
Argonauts acquire DT Mitchell from B.C. Lions

The Toronto Argonauts shored up their defensive line Tuesday by acquiring all-star tackle Khalif Mitchell from the B.C. Lions for defensive end Adrian Awasom and the rights to a negotiation list player.

The six-foot-five, 316-pound Mitchell was a CFL all-star in 2011 after registering six sacks and 33 tackles in helping B.C. win the Grey Cup. But last season he was suspended for two games by the league after hyperextending the arm of Edmonton Eskimos offensive lineman Simeon Rottier during a game.

He was also fined by the CFL last October for tweeting a term that was derogatory toward Chinese. Mitchell later apologized, saying he didn't know the word was offensive.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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Not the same old song and dance

Auto Pilot. The Internet is changing the way we purchase vehicles — and dealers are finally catching on

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
@metronews.ca

Back in pioneer times, before coffee went grande latte, TV went reality and information went digital, the car buying process at a dealership had a distinctly operatic feel.

It took way too long — in some cases, four hours plus. The drama seemed forced. Too many characters kept showing up — particularly that general sales manager guy who didn't talk much but had to have a hand in everything.

Fast forward to these modern times and now customers have access to the Internet.

According to the 2011 Google Automotive Shopping Behaviour Study, customers spend up to eight hours researching their purchase.

So now, when we show up at the dealership, we're much further along in the process. Often times we've already decided on the make and model and trim line. We're just there to get the vehicle at a fair price, and get the heck out of there.

But no … The salesperson insists you take your place on stage, for the full four-hour performance.

Take heart, however, that many enlightened automakers and dealers are very aware of this disconnect and have reshaped, or are in the process of reshaping, the sales process to better serve the Internet-savvy customer.

Toyota Canada has rolled out a special version of its already customer-friendly sales process, designed specifically for customers who don't want or need guidance about vehicle selection.

And Lincoln Concierge, which launches in Canada later this year, will see real live Lincoln people interacting with customers as they go through their online research. When the customer is ready for the dealership step, the Lincoln Concierge will facilitate the transition.

"The customer obviously has to agree to the passing of the information," says Peter Jansen, Lincoln Canada's national sales manager. But if they do, he adds, the customer will be rewarded with a "better first introduction" to the dealership world. For example, dealership staff will already know the customer's name, profile and vehicle choice, and know they are a customer seeking an "expedient" transaction experience.

The management team at Trotman Automotive Group, Mitch Trotman, left, Mike Trotman and Brad Trotman. CONTRIBUTED

One of the more pro-active dealers in Canada is the Trotman Automotive Group (TAG) in B.C. The main elements of the Trotman's express lane are that customers get pre-approved for financing, and get monthly payment ranges and pricing information at the start of the process. To save time, the used car manager will offer to appraise the customer's trade while they are test-driving the new vehicle.

"This is all information customers need to make a good decision, so let's acknowledge that and provide it to them proactively," says TAG president Mike Trotman.

The sales manager is still involved, but introduces himself or herself early, and tries to be a force for quickness, rather than a force for stretching it out. Trotman figures the process shaves half to two-thirds off the time of a conventional one.

Customers love it. "They tell us they never bought a vehicle so quick, so easy, and with so much fun before." In other words, no more waiting around until the Fat Lady sings.

Subaru's 'boxer' engine is all about balance

Driving Force. A boxer engine provides predictability and makes it easy to service a vehicle

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

To most people, a boxer is someone who makes his living in the ring. But there's another definition in the automotive world — it's a type of engine, and the only kind you'll find in a Subaru vehicle.

"It's also called a horizontally opposed or flat engine," says Ted Lalka, vice-president of product planning and marketing for Subaru Canada.

"They tend to be compact and lightweight, and they produce a fair amount of power to weight. They're still used in aviation for those reasons, and our company has a background in the aircraft industry, so we developed an expertise in these types of engines."

Subaru's boxer engine. CONTRIBUTED

The heart of an engine is a large, heavy shaft called the crankshaft. It's attached to pistons, which slide inside cylinders when they're powered by the exploding force of gasoline that's been detonated by the spark plugs. The pistons turn the crankshaft, and its spinning motion is what ultimately turns the car's wheels.

On most engines, the pistons are above the crankshaft, either in a straight line (called an inline engine, the most common configuration for four-cylinder engines), or slanted in two banks, forming a V that gives V6 and V8 engines their names. But on a boxer engine, the four or six pistons lie flat on either side of the crankshaft, where they move horizontally in their cylinders to provide power.

A boxer engine isn't as tall as a regular engine, which helps to lower the vehicle's centre of gravity. This improves handling and stability.

"With the boxer engine, it has very good balance between the left and right side, so the vehicle handles in a very predictable manner," Lalka says. "In addition, it makes servicing the vehicle easy. A lot of the components can be placed on top of the engine, so the alternator, water pump, and even the oil filter are right on top where they're easier to reach."

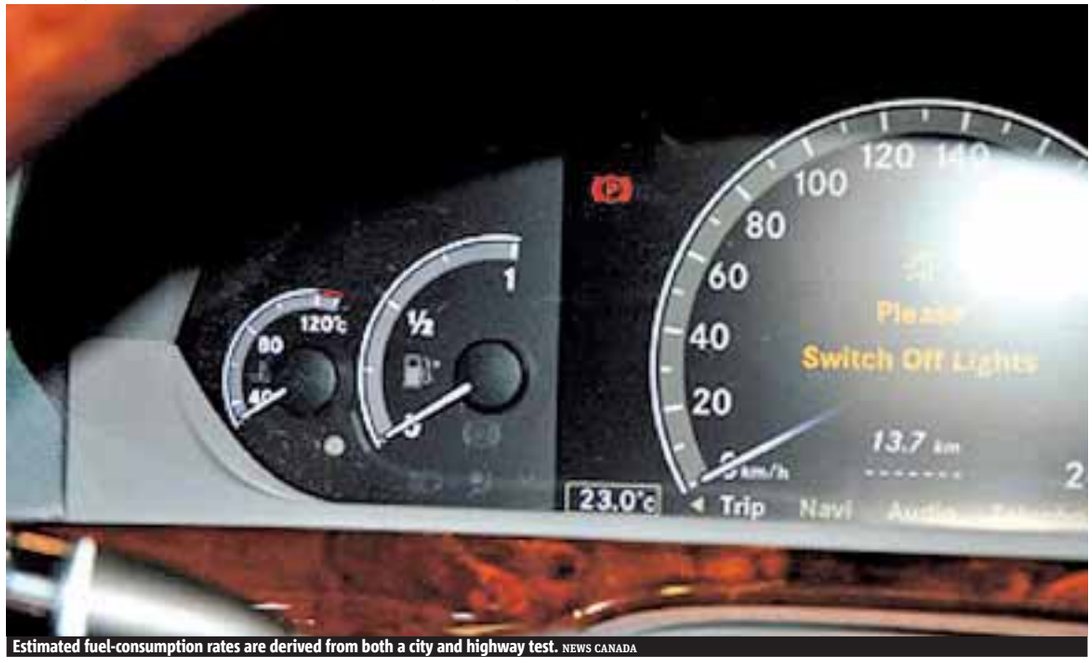
A different type of engine

- The boxer engine is part of Subaru's "symmetrical" all-wheel drive configuration, in which all driveline components are aligned on the car's north-south axis for better balance.
- It's believed that horizontally opposed engines got the name "boxer" because the piston movement looks like boxers jabbing at each other.

DRIVE

Get the facts about fuel ratings before you buy your next car

Fuel Consumption Guide. These ratings can help you make a more informed decision, but they won't accurately predict consumption



Estimated fuel-consumption rates are derived from both a city and highway test. NEWS CANADA

Reducing the cost of driving — to our wallet and to the environment — requires factual information. Fuel consumption ratings can help consumers make informed choices. But are these ratings factual?

In Canada, vehicle manufacturers test their own vehicles using standardized testing and analytical procedures approved by the government to generate fuel-consumption data.

This data is published annually in Natural Resources Canada's Fuel Consumption Guide. The fuel consumption values can also be found on the EnerGuide Labels that are affixed to every new light-duty vehicle sold in Canada.

Since it is impossible to consistently duplicate on-road testing with so many variables, a controlled laboratory testing method is followed instead.

This ensures that all vehicles are evaluated under identical conditions and that the results are consistent and repeatable across all manufacturers.

Estimated fuel-consumption ratings are derived from both a city and a highway test, and the values generated through this procedure allow fair and reliable comparisons of different vehicles.

The city test simulates a 12 km trip that includes 18 stops, while the highway test simulates a 16 km trip that does not include any stops.

The ratings reflect the results of the specific simulated tests. While the ratings are achievable under ideal conditions and when applying fuel-efficient driving techniques, the following factors can significantly affect the fuel consumption of a vehicle.

These include driving style and behaviour, vehicle acceleration, braking and driving speed, age and condition of the vehicle, traffic and road conditions and drive systems and powered accessories.

In addition, small variations in manufacturing can cause fuel consumption differences in the same make and model, and some vehicles don't attain optimal fuel consumption until they are "run in" for about 6,000 to 10,000 km.

The estimated ratings are a useful tool for comparing vehicles before you buy, but they do not accurately predict the fuel consumption you will get.

Natural Resource Canada's Fuel Consumption Guide, along with additional information and tips, can be found online by visiting vehicles.gc.ca.

NEWS CANADA

Buying tips

With so many new vehicle choices, how does anyone narrow down their buying decision? Natural Resources Canada points out that between vehicles in the same class, the differences in fuel consumption can be substantial.

- The most efficient mid-size vehicle for 2012 was the Nissan Leaf at a cost of $5,060 over 200,000 km.
- The most efficient minivan for 2012 was the Mazda5 at a cost of $17,430 over 200,000 km.
- The most efficient wagon for 2012 was the Toyota Prius at a cost of $9,660 over 200,000 km.
- To avoid unnecessary fuel costs, choose the most fuel-efficient vehicle that meets your everyday needs.
- Buying tips and a handy tool that compares estimated fuel consumption of various vehicle makes and models are available online at vehicles.gc.ca.

Diesel-electric hybrid

Volkswagen CFRP car coming soon

Volkswagen is introducing a production version of its hyper-efficient XL1 model at the Geneva Motor Show on March 5. Built mainly from carbon fibre reinforced plastic (CFRP) — only 23 per cent of the car is metal — it weighs just 795 kg. Thanks to a super-slippery shape, the diesel-electric hybrid can travel 100 km on just one litre of diesel. METRO

Hyper-car hybrid

Ferrari gets into the green game

Also at the Geneva Motor Show, Ferrari unveiled its first hybrid car. LaFerrari is packed with cutting-edge tech, so despite its hyper-car performance, its emissions are (relatively) good. It can hit 100 km/h in less than three seconds. Production is limited to 499 models. METRO

Cyclist safety system

Volvo tech to protect cyclists

About half of all cycling deaths happen as a result of a cyclist colliding with a car. Now Volvo has introduced the world's first safety system to protect cyclists. The technology can detect, then automatically brake, when a cyclist swerves out in front of a car. METRO

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Do whatever it takes to make an impression on people in positions of power. With your drive and determination you can and you must find ways to get yourself noticed.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Forget about the negative things in your life — the bills, the quarrels, etc. — and focus on your dreams. The planets indicate that at least one of those dreams will come true over the next few weeks.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you need to improve your financial situation then it's time to make that big move from the planning stage to the doing stage. You know what changes need to be made, so get on with it and make them.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Changes seem to be coming quickly at the moment and it may all be getting a bit too much for you. Calm down, make yourself a nice cup of tea and let the planets work their magic. You'll be OK.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It seems you have your fingers in too many pies at the moment and there is a serious possibility they could get burned. Maybe it's time to back off a bit, at least for a while. Sort out your priorities.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your creative juices are bubbling and although some say your ideas are far-fetched, you know they can work. You have so much confidence in your abilities there is nothing you cannot do.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will be on good terms with just about everyone today but especially with a group of people who like to go to extremes. That's all fine and dandy but watch out you don't hurt yourself, or other people.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Nothing seems to faze you at the moment. Is that because your circumstances have changed for the better or is it because you finally understand that life is supposed to be fun? Whatever the reason, enjoy!

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Minor problems will likely be magnified into major setbacks today, at least in your head. It is essential that you don't let your fears get out of hand. What happened to that happy-go-lucky, optimistic Sag?

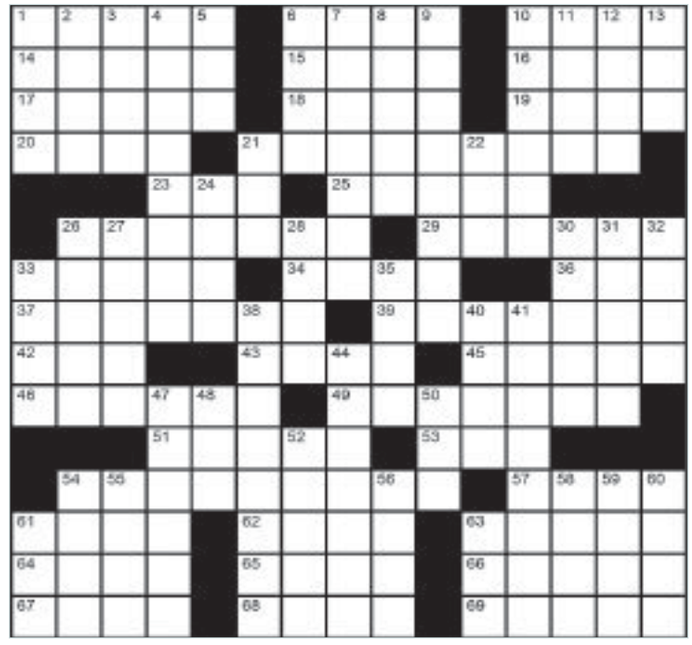
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Pluto in your birth sign gives you great power but it also brings with it responsibility for how you use that power. You may be tempted to use your authority to cut corners today but that would be a mistake.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Others may be urging you to do this or do that but don't listen to them. There is no need to panic or change your lifestyle. Changes will take place but let them happen gradually, not all in one go.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
What is happening in your life may be unsettling but it is also necessary if you are to lead a fuller existence. Whatever is going on won't be happening next week. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

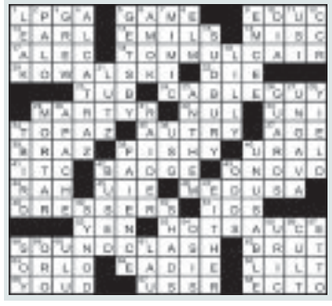
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Winnie-the-Pooh greeting
6. Long-range weapon, commonly
10. Taj†Mahal's site
14. Shake like _ __
15. Actor, Benicio Del __
16. Alaska's famous Glacier
17. Alberta tourist hotspot
18. Canadian news anchor who is 3x Olympian, Rosey __
19. Curves
20. Ice floes animal
21. Winnipeg-born singer/songwriter Chantal
23. Singer Ms. DiFranco
25. Right-hand page
26. Lady Gaga's "Bad __"
29. Virgil epic
33. Tailor's lines
34. Subtraction opp.
36. Francis __, "Love Story" score composer
37. "Piece of cake!": 2 wds.
39. Character in Great Expectations
42. Superagent on "Entourage"
43. "Hey! Hold on _ __!"
45. Makes _ _ (Is untidy)
46. City of Russia
49. Trinidad music style
51. Alan __ (Canadian hubby of Suzanne Somers)
53. Racecar driver Mr. Fabi
54. Fundraising entities
57. Queen's 'Bohemian', e.g.
61. Enthusiasm
62. Swimmer's circuits
63. Shrek's beloved Princess
64. The Phantom's name in Gaston Leroux's classic novel The Phantom of the Opera
65. Itemize
66. Songs
67. Canadian comedian/actor, Jon __
68. Musher's 'vehicle'
69. Some ducks

Down
1. Montreal hockey players, to fans
2. Wings: Latin
3. Ms. Horne
4. Chief Anchor of "CTV National News", Lisa __
5. Switch selection
6. Old road of Rome
7. Emergency situation: 2 wds.
8. Alla __ (Music term)
9. Daniel Day-Lewis film, "The Last of the __"
10. Books-selling website
11. Wise adviser
12. Humphrey's part in "Casablanca" (1942)
13. MGM's motto, __ Gratia Artis (Art for Art's Sake)
21. Family
22. Used up
24. Astronaut employer
26. '70s fashion, for instance
27. "Wonderwall" band
28. Islets
30. Ils opposites
31. "_ __ feel that way." (Concurring comment)
32. "Buenos __!"
33. Thailand, formerly
35. Prefix meaning 'Ten'
38. Log-processing sites
40. Mr. Diggs
41. Shopper's dream site
44. "The Twilight Saga: __" (2010)
47. Ottawa-born actress Sarah
48. Rowboat steerer
50. Mil. officers
52. Internet commerce, _-__
54. Kind of mackerel
55. Brushed stuff
56. Approximated, for short
58. Sharpen skills
59. Afresh
60. Backstage __
61. Last letter
63. Alberta's McMurray, et al.

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	2	3	8	5	7	9	4
8	5	9	7	1	4	6	3	2
3	7	4	2	9	6	5	1	8
9	3	5	1	2	7	8	4	6
7	4	8	5	6	9	3	2	1
6	2	1	8	4	3	9	5	7
4	8	6	9	3	1	2	7	5
5	1	3	6	7	2	4	8	9
2	9	7	4	5	8	1	6	3

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Thursday
-2°/-5°
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